



One TANK TRIPS Catholic

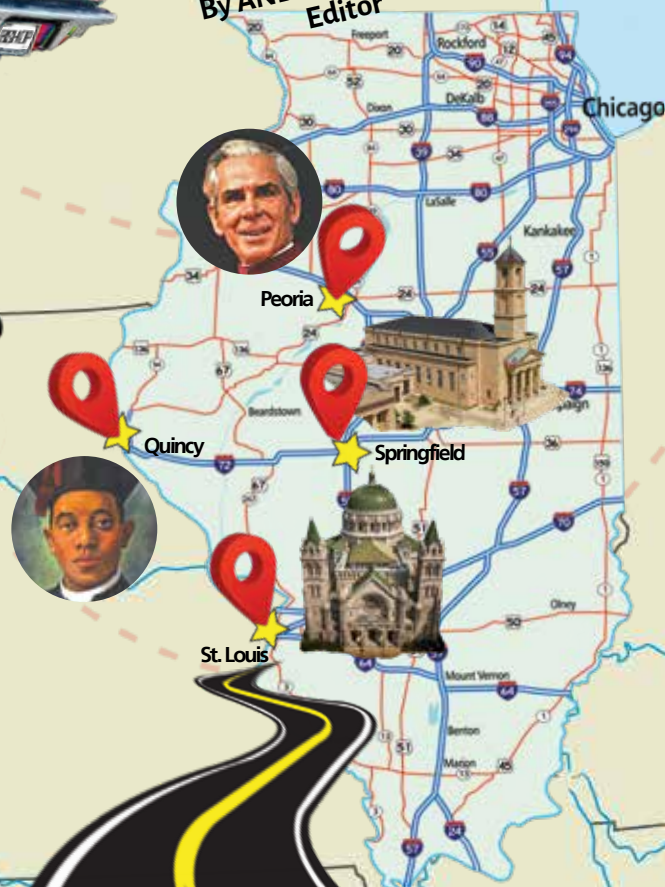
By ANDREW HANSEN
Editor

Looking for a Catholic
adventure?

PERHAPS A ONE-DAY PILGRIMAGE?

DO YOU LOVE HISTORY,
ARCHITECTURE, BEAUTY,
AND OUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

In this edition of *Catholic Times*, we offer you four places you can drive to and get back to your home on one tank of gas (or pretty close) that checks all those boxes. So, fuel-up, make sure the tires are OK, get your snack bag, and grab your rosary to pray along the way as we present to you one tank Catholic trips.



THIS WAY

ST. LOUIS

Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

If you love architecture and beautiful churches, St. Louis is up there for one of the best cities in the U.S. that offers both of those. Whether your trip is just a day or several, the first place you should see, because pictures do not do it justice, is the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

For starters, the church, which was built in 1914, is huge.

It can seat 2,500 people. But what gets everyone's attention are the mosaics. They are everywhere, but mainly, if you look up. These beautiful works of art depict so many things in the life, history, and belief of the Catholic faith. The church contains 41.5 million glass tesserae pieces, which includes more than 7,000 colors. The

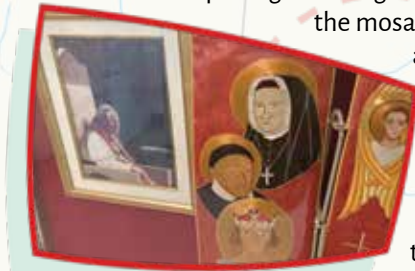


mosaics cover 83,000 square feet. The church boasts the largest ceiling mosaic in the world. Just how long did all that take? The mosaic work started in 1912 and was completed in 1988.

In 1997, the Cathedral was designated as a Cathedral Basilica by Pope St. John Paul II, who honored the Cathedral Basilica with a visit on his history-making trip to the United States in 1999.



The lower level of the Cathedral Basilica is home to the Mosaic Museum. There, you can read and see several displays depicting the design and installation of



the mosaics. The museum also displays the throne used during the visit of Pope St. John Paul II and a collection of historical vestments and other precious

objects used over the decades. Also in the museum is the Cathedral crypt, where several former archbishops are buried.

The Cathedral Basilica is open from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Self-guided tours do not require reservations, however, the Cathedral encourages visitors to call and ensure the church is available, especially on the weekends, due to weddings, archdiocesan events, and other weekend activities. Guided tours are available Monday through Saturday, but call ahead for availability: (314) 373-8241. The address is 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis.

Basilica of St. Louis, King of France

To see what is known as the first cathedral west of the Mississippi River, stop by the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, a historical gem if you are downtown. Many call it the "Old Cathedral," and it is one of the most historic buildings in all of St. Louis as the church was dedicated in 1834.

Church hours are Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. There are self-guided tour brochures as you enter the church. For questions, call (314) 231-3250. The address is 209 Walnut St., St. Louis.

Shrine to St. Joseph

Pope Francis declared this year the "Year of St. Joseph." What better way to honor Jesus' foster father than a trip to another gorgeous church named in his honor, the Shrine of St. Joseph? The church has been described as one of the most beautiful churches in St. Louis. The sacred and historical shrine is the site of the only Vatican authenticated miracle in a Midwestern church. After every Sunday 11 a.m. Mass, the church holds a tour. You can also arrange a tour by calling (314) 231-9407. The address is 1220 N. 11th St., St. Louis.

Ask the expert: What else is there to do in St. Louis?

While you are in the neighborhood near the Cathedral Basilica (new cathedral), take a short trip west to see Forest Park, one of the most visited urban parks in the county. The park is home to the St. Louis Art Museum, the St. Louis Science Center, the St. Louis Zoo, the Missouri History Museum, and The Muny outdoor theatre. There are also many great restaurants in the Central West End, just blocks from the Cathedral Basilica.

The Old Cathedral sits right next to the grounds of the Gateway Arch National Park. Going to the top of the Gateway Arch provides a stunning view of downtown St. Louis on one side, and the southwestern most portion of our diocese on the other. The grounds for the Gateway Arch also provide a nice place to stroll around and take in the riverfront.

A hidden gem while you are in the northern part of downtown St. Louis is the adoration chapel at Mount Grace Convent, home of the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (also known as the Pink Sisters).

Other great sights to check out that are not far from these locations are the Botanical Gardens in South

St. Louis City, which is very close to The Hill, an Italian neighborhood boasting some amazing restaurants. If you save room for dessert, you can complete your visit to South St. Louis with a visit to Ted Drewes Frozen Custard where you can partake of their most famous treat, the concrete.

Father Brian Alford is rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield and attended Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

SPRINGFIELD

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

If you live in our diocese, a Catholic trip to Springfield must include a visit to our Mother Church.

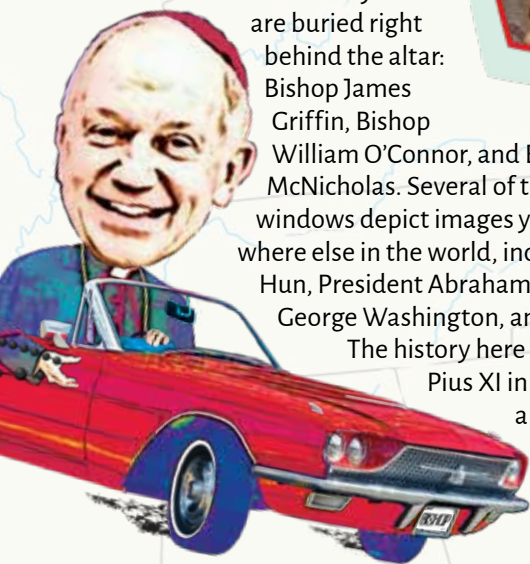
Dedicated to our Blessed Mother, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is unique from other churches in that it is the seat of the diocese and is the bishop's church. In essence, the Cathedral is the parish of every Catholic in the diocese and represents the universal church in the diocese.

Three bishops are buried here. They are buried right behind the altar:

Bishop James Griffin, Bishop William O'Connor, and Bishop Joseph McNicholas. Several of the stained-glass windows depict images you will not see anywhere else in the world, including Attila the Hun, President Abraham Lincoln, President George Washington, and the Statehouse.

The history here started with Pope Pius XI in 1923 when he issued a Papal bull designating the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield to be the Cathedral of the

Immaculate Conception, and so the Episcopal See of the diocese was transferred from Alton to Springfield. The current Cathedral was then finished in 1928.



What most people are drawn to as they enter the church is the stunning, large image of Mary above the tabernacle. The Latin phrase above her, "*Macula non est in te*," is translated to "No stain (sin) is in you." When you look up at the ceiling, you will get a taste of Rome as it is replicated from the ceiling at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the church that houses a large piece of the manger Jesus was born in.

Before you leave for home on your trip, consider going to the 5:15 p.m. Mass during the week. Confessions are also available before that Mass starting at 4:15 p.m. The address is 524 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield.

Blessed Sacrament Church

When asked what church he thinks is the most beautiful church in our diocese, besides the Cathedral of course, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki answered "Blessed Sacrament" in Springfield.

Dedicated in 1930, Blessed Sacrament has several beautiful, holy images to check out including a striking, large marble statue of Mary holding Jesus after his death.

There is also a shrine to our Lady of Lourdes. Outside, there is a beautiful 600-pound statue of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta in the courtyard, which was installed in 2020. Then, there is just the overall beauty of the church, especially the altar area. If you want to spend some time before the Lord, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for veneration in their chapel. Public visitors are welcome in the chapel from 5 a.m.-10 p.m. The address is 1725 S. Walnut St., Springfield.

Ask the expert: What else is there to do in Springfield?

If you are planning a daytrip to Springfield, consider visiting the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. It is incredibly engaging, and you will learn plenty of interesting things about our nation's 16th president, the Civil War, and American history. Figure on spending at least two hours there. You can also visit Lincoln's actual home, which is just a few blocks away from the Cathedral in downtown Springfield (tickets are free).

Speaking of Lincoln, the Old State Capitol is downtown. That is where he delivered his famous "House Divided" speech. You can also visit the Statehouse and get a free tour, which I highly recommend if you love architecture and Illinois history. The Illinois capitol is one of the most impressive buildings you will ever walk through. Tours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday and run every

30 minutes. On Saturday, they are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and run every hour. For more information you can call (217) 782-2099.

One of the many great things about Springfield is there are plenty of really good places to eat. Too many to list, but I encourage you to eat local. If you want to “taste local,” there is always the Springfield staple, the horseshoe.

If you are looking to go for a walk or take your children to a fun playground, Washington Park is Springfield’s most popular destination. If you are looking for a scenic trail, visit the Lincoln Memorial Garden Nature Center on East Lake Shore Drive. The beautiful trails take you through dense trees, prairie wildflowers, and other treasures of nature. You will also see Lake Springfield up close. This spot makes many people think they are more in the Northwoods of Wisconsin or Michigan than Central Illinois.

Finally, The Vachel Lindsay Home and Dana Thomas House (designed by Frank Lloyd Wright), are two of my favorite places in Springfield you should visit. If you love architecture, you have to check them out.

Father Steven Arisman is a native of Springfield. He attended St. Agnes School and Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. He is pastor of St. Francis Solanus in Quincy.

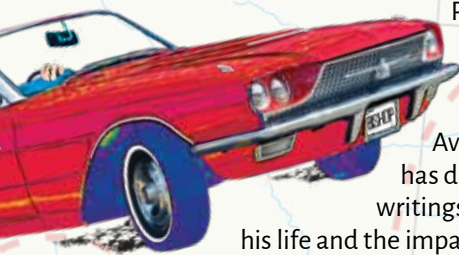
PEORIA

Archbishop Fulton Sheen Museum

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is a name synonymous with the Catholic Church in the United States. He was born in Illinois, in El Paso, and grew up in Peoria, and is known as the first televangelist in the nation who touched the lives of tens of millions of people through his preaching, dozens of books, and television appearances. He is also moving along the path to sainthood, known today as Venerable Sheen (step two of four to becoming a saint).

Today, he is honored tremendously by the Diocese of Peoria. Let us start first with the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Museum at the diocese headquarters (419 NE Madison Ave., Peoria). The museum has dozens of Sheen artifacts, his writings, a 45-minute video about his life and the impact he had on the Catholic Church, the materials compiled by the diocese and sent to Rome when the diocese opened his cause for sainthood, and various photos and vestments worn by Sheen.

For some people, the



museum will be a trip back in time as Sheen was in tens of millions of households starting in the 1950s when he hosted his popular *Life is Worth Living* television show. Others will learn for the first time about a holy man who lived his life with zeal and showed others the path to God.

Hours of the museum are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is free, but a donation is encouraged.

Venerable Sheen tomb/Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Just a couple blocks from the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Museum is where Venerable Sheen is laid to rest at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, the same church where Archbishop Sheen served as an altar boy and was ordained to the priesthood. Visiting this Cathedral is a must that goes beyond spending time at Archbishop Sheen’s tomb asking for his intercession. The church has a “wow” factor that makes you look around in amazement.

One interesting feature that can go unnoticed is in of all places, the vestibule. The ceiling there depicts the exact constellation of the stars as they appeared on the night of Feb. 12, 1875, when by decree of Pope Pius IX, the Diocese of Peoria was created. The shooting star represents a large meteorite that fell on the same day near Homestead, Iowa.

After you explore the church, make sure you visit the chapel, which is off to your right through a door as you look at the altar. The chapel is not only a quaint, prayerful place, but it is the home of dozens of rel-



ics, including pieces of the true cross of Our Lord, the crown of thorns of Our Lord, and the column of scourging of Our Lord. There are also relics of St. Basil, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis de Sales, St. John Bosco, St. John Neuman, St. Margaret Mary, St. Joseph, and dozens of other saints.



The hours to visit Archbishop Sheen's tomb and the Cathedral are Monday through Friday 12-2 p.m. and Saturdays 3-5 p.m. (you may also visit during Mass times). The address is 607 NE Madison Ave., Peoria.



Ask the expert: What else is there to do in Peoria?

The Peoria area is a great day trip or weekend destination for both families and adults. The Warehouse District is the perfect spot to grab a bite to eat, enjoy a cup of coffee, or even try a number of different fun activities — including wall climbing, escape rooms, axe throwing, and whiskey tastings (tip: do the axe throwing before the whiskey tastings). For a nice date night, my wife and I often head to Peoria Heights where we can dine on “Restaurant Row,” enjoy a drink atop a rooftop bar, and take a scenic walk along Grandview Drive.

In downtown, the Peoria Riverfront Museum features rotating exhibits and collections, a state-of-the-art planetarium, and a giant screen theater. Next door to the museum is the Caterpillar Visitors Center, where you will learn about Caterpillar's history through eight interactive exhibit galleries, hands-on equipment simulators, and over 50 videos and 800 photographs. My family also likes to hop aboard the nearby Spirit of Peoria paddleboat for a scenic ride and tour of the Illinois River. Less than 10 minutes from downtown are my kids' favorite area destinations — the Peoria Zoo and the Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum.

For those who love the outdoors, you will discover great hiking, biking, fishing, and kayaking spots across the rolling, wooded terrain of the Peoria area. My family enjoys hiking the beautiful trails throughout the area — from the Forest Park Nature Preserve to Rocky Glen (often referred to as a smaller Starved Rock). Located just west of Peoria, Wildlife Prairie Park is an 1,800 acre natural landscape that is home to over 150 animals and features hiking trails, fishing spots, and lodging. My kids especially love the train and giant slide at the park. Across the river in Spring Bay, Sankoty Lakes — the Midwest's newest outdoor destination — offers

private glamping tents, trout and fly fishing, kayaking, and birdwatching in a serene setting among crystal clear waters.

Steve Klemm attended St. Agnes School and Sacred Heart-Griffin High School in Springfield. He lives in Peoria with his wife and two children.

QUINCY

Venerable Father Augustine Tolton grave

A Catholic trip to Quincy must include a visit to the grave of Venerable Father Augustine Tolton. The nation's first black priest and native of Quincy is laid to rest at St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery off Broadway Avenue.



Pope Francis declared Father Tolton “Venerable” on June 12, 2019, the second step of four to becoming a saint in the Catholic Church.

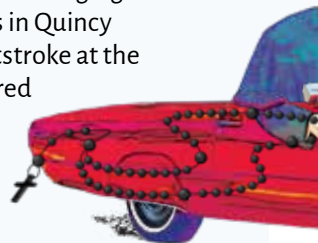
If the Church declares a miracle to have occurred because of the intercession of Father Tolton, he will then become “Blessed” Tolton. Another miracle would then make him a saint. So, if you visit his grave, spend some quiet time in prayer, asking Father Tolton for his intercession for your needs, the needs of the Church, and our culture at large.



Father Tolton was born into slavery in 1854. In 1862, his mother and siblings made a daring escape across the Mississippi River to Illinois. After settling in Quincy, he went to school at St. Peter's Catholic School. Father Tolton later went to seminary school in Rome because no American seminary would accept a black man. Thinking he would minister in Africa, once he was ordained, he was instead sent back to Quincy, where he arrived to thousands of supporters. Known for his incredible singing and homilies, Father Tolton spent several years in Quincy before transferring to Chicago. He died of heatstroke at the age of 43 on July 9, 1897. His body was transferred back to Quincy where he is buried at St. Peter's Cemetery. The cemetery is located on Broadway Avenue and 34th Street.

Venerable Father Augustine Tolton panels

Perhaps before or after your visit to Father Tolton's grave,



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in Quincy to get a visual representation of the life of Father Tolton. Nine marble panels on display outside the church by the parking lot depict the highlights of Father Tolton's life. The beautiful images showcase the life of a holy man, a true witness to our Catholic faith, and a dedicated servant of God.

Msgr. Leo Enlow, pastor of the Church of St. Peter, came up with the idea and said that since Father Tolton was a member of their parish, it is fitting to have a display of his life. A parishioner at the Church of St. Peter, Tim Haubrich, who is an artist and runs PAM Printers in Quincy, helped create the images.

St. Francis Solanus Church

Quincy has one of the richest histories of any city in our diocese. When it comes to churches, not much else compares in terms of history than St. Francis Solanus Church.

Founded by the Franciscan friars from Germany in 1860, St. Francis Solanus Church was built in 1885. One of the biggest churches in our diocese (the steeple alone is 217 feet high), it is home to beautiful statues, gorgeously colored *Stations of the Cross*, a towering ceiling that makes you look up toward heaven, and a high altar unlike any in the diocese.

St. Francis Solanus Parish was known for 160 years as having the Franciscan friars minister to the people of the Parish. At one point, there were 55 priests who lived here. In 2020, the order transferred the staffing of the parish to the Diocese of Springfield.



While you are in the neighborhood, you can check out the campus of Quincy University, which is just a block away.

Ask the expert: What else is there to do in Quincy?

One of my favorite places to visit in Quincy is the John Wood Mansion. In addition to being the founder of Quincy, John Wood was also the twelfth governor of Illinois. The docents at the mansion offer a good history of the city of Quincy, as well as a good architectural tour of the house. It is especially enjoyable at Christmastime. Another site not to be missed is Clat Adams Park downtown along the Mississippi River where the sunsets can be simply stunning while admiring Bayview Bridge, which lights up in the night. The Villa Katharine was built on the bluffs overlooking the river in 1900 by George Metz, who took inspiration for his house from his travels in Spain. The chapel of Quincy University is modeled on the mosaics of San Apollinare in Classe Ravenna and is a beautiful and quiet place for prayer. Quincy's 26 parks are also worth a visit.

If you get hungry for a snack, be sure to visit Underbrink's Bakery for some of the best baked goods you'll ever find, but be sure to get there early as it closes at 2 p.m. Walking toward the door you'll get a little foretaste of the scent of heaven. If you get hungry for a meal, you should

try the Maid Rite for a delicious sandwich and homemade pie, Tiramisu for some of the best pasta around, or the Tower of Pizza for — oddly enough — an excellent breaded tenderloin sandwich.

Father Daren Zehnle is pastor at St. Augustine in Ashland and is a native of Quincy.

Most photos by Andrew Hansen

Photos of exteriors of St. Louis Basilica by Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review

Photo of Father Tolton grave by Wayne Wienke

